

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

College of Education

Faculty Curriculum Vitae Information and Template

Maria Isolina Ruiz, PhD.

Title Department Office Number Extension Email Address	Assistant Professor Department of Curriculum and Instruction Girard 108D (337) 482-1891 miruiz@louisiana.edu
Education	Ph.D. in Special Education, with emphasis in Early Intervention (12/ 2012); University of New Orleans M.S. in Special Education, with emphasis in Intellectual Disabilities (05/1996); Southern Connecticut State University Técnico Superior en Psicopedagogía (Psychopedagogy/Special Education) Colegio Universitario de Psicopedagogía, Caracas, Venezuela (07/1990).
Teaching Philosophy	<p>My philosophy of education is mostly founded on my experience as a special education teacher, consultant, and strategist. I believe that all students are capable of achieving, provided that they have the motivation to do so and are offered adequate support to reach their goals. I understand that different students may respond to different teaching styles. Therefore, I try to incorporate a variety of activities in my classes to ensure that all students have the opportunity to process the information, and I am available to provide individualized assistance to my students as needed.</p> <p>I believe that the application of concepts is essential to guarantee students' understanding of the principles of special education. However, I want these hands-on experiences to be based on a solid theoretical foundation that allows teachers-in training to make effective decisions based on their knowledge of evidence-based practices. I use my experiences in the field of special education to ground my teaching and exemplify the relevance of the content taught in class. I strive to teach my students the skills that I believe they will need to be effective special education teachers. I believe that setting high expectations for my students is the first step</p>

	<p>towards training special educators who will, in turn, have high expectations of children with disabilities. I seek to train special educators who are proficient problem solvers. To achieve that, I encourage collegial discussions of controversial issues and the expression of differing ideas. By helping students connect with the more humane side of their future roles as special educators, I attempt to inspire them to become advocates for students with disabilities and their families.</p>
<p>Bio</p>	<p>María Isolina Ruiz, PhD. began her career in special education in her native Venezuela, where she completed undergraduate studies in 1990. She earned a Master in Science degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University in 1996 and completed a Doctor in Philosophy degree in Special Education at the University of New Orleans in December 2012.</p> <p>Dr. Ruiz has worked extensively with individuals with mild, moderate, and significant disabilities in the PK-12 age range as well as adults. She has experience as a training consultant and instructional strategist. Dr. Ruiz has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences on a wide array of special education issues including, but not limited to, teaching and behavior management strategies, Response-to-Intervention, assessment of English language learners, and parental participation in the special education process, and the factors that influence student completion of Special Education graduate programs. Her research interests include the implementation fidelity of school-based behavioral and academic interventions, parent-school collaboration, effective teaching strategies used with students with disabilities, and factors affecting parents' decisions regarding their children's education and participation in the special education process.</p> <p>Dr. Ruiz is an active member of multiple professional organizations and an advocate for students with disabilities and their families. She strongly believes in the right of all individuals to receive quality education and the role of teachers as agents of change in the education of students with disabilities. Dr. Ruiz has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette since January 2014.</p>
<p>Courses Taught</p>	<p>SPED-484 Assessment and Evaluation for Elementary Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities</p>

	<p>SPED-420 (G)- Reading, Curriculum, and Methods in Early Intervention</p> <p>SPED-428 Language Arts Intervention for Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED-511 Mathematics Intervention for Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED-483 Methods for Elementary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities.</p> <p>SPED-453 Methods for Secondary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities</p>
Research Interests	
Teaching Experience	<p>Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction University of Louisiana at Lafayette (January 2014- to date) Teach graduate level special education courses in the Master of Arts in Teaching and the Early Intervention add-on certification programs.</p> <p>Adjunct Faculty, University of New Orleans (Fall, 2013 to date) Teach graduate-level online course to students seeking Master and certification in Early Intervention.</p>
Publications	<p>Flynn-Wilson, L. & Ruiz, M.I. “Partnerships with Family Members to Meet the Needs of Their Children” <i>American Council on Rural Special Education 2014 Conference Proceedings</i>. Ed. Rahn, N. L. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University. Online.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., Naquin, G., D’Atrio, C., & Dellinger, A. (2013). Assessing the implementation fidelity of check-in check-out behavioral interventions in elementary and middle school. <i>Preventing School Failure</i>.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2012). Training school personnel on implementation of check-in check-out behavioral interventions. <i>NASP Communiqué</i>, 41 (1), 7-10.</p>
Presentations	<u>PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES</u>

Flynn-Wilson, L., & Ruiz, M. I. (2014). *Partnerships with Family Members to Meet the Needs of Their Children*. Paper presented at the ACRES American Council on Rural Special Education Conference, Tucson, AZ.

Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). *Experiences of Immigrant Latino Parents While Navigating the American Special Education System*. Paper presented at the DEC's 29th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, San Francisco, CA.

Ruiz, M. I. & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). *Parental Participation in the Special Education Process: Understanding the Factors that Really Make a Difference for Latino Parents*. Paper presented at the 2013 Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Ruiz, M. I. & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). *Factors Influencing the Participation of Latinos in their Children's Special Education Process*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2013, San Antonio, TX.

Ruiz, M. I. & Flynn, L. (2011). *Families' Perceptions of Helpful Experiences While Learning About the Special Education System*. Paper presented at the DEC's 27th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, National Harbor, MD.

Giovingo, L. K., Flynn, L., Ruiz, M. I., Aguilar, E., Gary, L., Rushing, E. & Wilson, P. *Experiences that Facilitate Parent Participation in the Educational Decision-Making Process of Young Children with Disabilities*. Poster presented at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities 2011 Conference, Washington, DC. (Received Best Poster Award)

Smith, T. & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Behavior Support Strategies for the Early Childhood Classroom*. Paper presented at the 9th Biennial International Conference on Children and Youth with Behavioral Disorders, New Orleans, LA.

Ruiz, M. I. & Smith, T. (2011). *A Model for Implementing Response to Intervention (RTI) with English Language Learners (ELLs)*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2011, Baltimore, MD.

Smith, T. & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *I can play too: Early Childhood Inclusion Strategies Correlated with ECERS*. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2011,

Baltimore, MD.

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Implementing Response to Intervention with English Language Learners*. Poster presented at the Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) 2011 Annual Convention and Exhibit, New Orleans, LA.

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Recommendations for Implementing Response to Intervention with English Language Learners*. Paper presented at the Learning Disabilities Association 48th Annual International Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

Ruiz, M. I. & Smith, T. (2010). *Considerations When Implementing Response to Intervention with English Language Learners*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2010, Nashville, TN.

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Implementation Fidelity of Check in-Check out at a District-Wide Level*. Poster presented at the 2010 Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Ruiz, M. I. & Smith, T. (2009). *Guidelines for Training School Personnel on the Implementation of Check in-Check out*. Paper presented at the 8th Biennial International Conference on Children and Youth with Behavioral Disorders, Denver, CO.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Ruiz, M. I. (2012). *Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children with Disabilities and their Families*. Oral presentation, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) Training Program, Human Development Center, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Struggling English Language Learners: Difference or Disability?* Oral presentation, Teaching without Borders: 2011 Jefferson Parish Inclusion Conference in Kenner, LA.

Nata, L. & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). *Una Buena I.D.E.A. Para Louisiana (A Good I.D.E.A. for Louisiana)*. Oral presentation at the Families Helping Families Conferencia para Familias Hispanas/Latinas FUTUROS 2011 (Hispanic /Latino Parents Conference FUTURES 2011), Covington, LA.

	Ruiz, M. I. (2009). <i>Teaching Strategies that Work with Students with ADHD</i> . Oral presentation, Jefferson Parish Inclusion Conference, Metairie, LA.
Grants	
Conferences Attended	
Professional Memberships	<p>Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Division of Early Childhood (DEC) -Division of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) -Division of Learning Disabilities (DLD) -Teacher Education Division (TED) <p>Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL)</p>
Awards	<p>University of New Orleans, College of Education 50th Anniversary Distinguished Alumna in Special Education (2014).</p> <p>2013 Outstanding Doctoral Graduate, Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services Faculty Awards, University of New Orleans.</p> <p>Best Research Poster Award, University Centers on Disabilities 2011 Conference, Washington, DC.</p>
Additional Skills	Fluent in Spanish
Dissertation	<p>Factors that Influence the Participation of Immigrant Latino Parents in the Special Education Process of their Children with Disabilities</p> <p>Advisor: Linda Flynn-Wilson University of New Orleans Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services, Chair Early Intervention Program Coordinator</p> <p>Summary: This study examined the experiences of immigrant Latino parents while navigating the special education system as well as the impact that such experiences had on parents' participation in the special education process of their children with disabilities. A researcher-developed survey was used to collect the data.</p>

<p>Other Professional Experience</p>	<p>Facilitator, Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) Project, Human Development Center, Louisiana State University-Health Sciences Center (Nov, 2013- June 2014).</p> <p>Inclusive Practices Strategist, Special Programs Department, Jefferson Parish Public School System, LA (2009-2010)</p> <p>Training Consultant, Pupil Assistance Model, Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA (2009)</p> <p>Bilingual Special Education Specialist, Office of Pupil Appraisal, Special Programs Department, Jefferson Parish School System, LA (2008-2009)</p>
<p>Service</p>	<p>Diversity Chair, Louisiana Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (Jan 2014- to date)</p> <p>Reviewer, Young Exceptional Children Journal (Oct 2013 - to date)</p> <p>Proposal Reviewer, 2013 American Educational Research Association Conference (2012)</p> <p>Member of the Student Editorial Board, Young Exceptional Children Journal (2012- 2013)</p> <p>Presenter, <i>La Autoestima en las Madres Latinas Immigrantes / Self-esteem and Immigrant Latino Mothers</i>, Spanish language workshop, Jefferson Parish Public School System, English Language Acquisition Department, Harvey, LA (2012)</p> <p>Presenter, <i>Entendiendo la Respuesta a Intervención o "RTI" / Understanding Response to Intervention or "RTI"</i>, Spanish and English language workshops for parents, advocates, and education students, Families Helping Families of Jefferson, Westwego, LA (2012)</p> <p>Volunteer, National Association of Bilingual Education Conference (2011)</p> <p>Presenter, <i>Response to Intervention for Parents / Respuesta a Intervencion para Padres</i>, English and Spanish language workshops for parents, Families Helping Families of Jefferson, Metairie, LA (2010)</p> <p>Presenter, <i>Special Education: How Do I Know If My Child Needs It?</i> Bilingual (English/Spanish) workshop for parents, Jefferson</p>

	Parish Public Schools English Language Acquisition Department Parent Fair, Harvey, LA (2009).
--	--